

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 055817
ORIGIN STR-02

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TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO IMMEDIATE

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LIMDIS FOR AMB MANSFIELD FROM AMB STRAUSS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:ETRD

SUBJECT:FOLLOW-UP ON JANUARY 13 STATEMENT

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DEAR MIKE:

THE PRESIDENT HAS RECENTLY REITERATED HIS CONCERN THAT ALL REASONABLE STEPS ARE TAKEN TO REACH THE GOALS CONTAINED IN THE JANUARY 13 JOINT STATEMENT BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND JAPAN. I DON'T HAVE TO, AND WON'T, REITERATE THE PRESSURES BUILDING BACK HERE. WE ARE TAKING A FAIR AMOUNT OF CONGRESSIONAL HEAT ON THE FASTENER'S DECISION, AND EXERTING MAXIMUM EFFORTS TO AVOID AN OVERRIDE OF THE PRESIDENT'S DECISION.

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PAGE 02 STATE 055817

THE PUBLIC, PRESS, AND CONGRESS REMAIN SKEPTICAL ABOUT THE MEANINGFULNESS OF THE JOINT STATEMENT. JAPANESE ECONOMIC INDICATORS ARE NOT LIKELY TO BE PROMISING IN THE NEAR TERM AND THE JAPANESE CURRENT ACCOUNT BALANCE IS LIKELY TO SWELL BEFORE IT SHRINKS. IF WE ARE TO WEATHER THESE FUTURE DISAPPOINTMENTS AND BE ABLE TO SUSTAIN A VIABLE TRADE PROGRAM, WE MUST HAVE POSITIVE RESULTS IN

OTHER AREAS IN THE INTERIM. THEREFORE, IT IS PARTICULARLY

IMPORTANT TO MANAGE THE POLITICAL PROBLEM THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN CARRY OUT THEIR COMMITMENTS RECENTLY MADE IN THE TRADE FIELD. PUBLIC ATTENTION IN THIS COUNTRY WILL FOCUS ON THE RESULTS ACHIEVED IN THE VARIOUS EXPLORATORY AND BUYING MISSIONS WHICH WILL BE TRAVELING BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES DURING THE NEXT FEW MONTHS. IT IS PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT, I THINK, TO MAINTAIN THE COMMITMENT OF MINISTERS AND HIGH-LEVEL JAPANESE OFFICIALS IN THE MINISTRIES DIRECTLY RESPONSIBLE AS WELL AS THE MINISTRIES WITH A BROADER VIEW. OTHERWISE, EACH CONTACT WILL BE MADE ONLY WITH THOSE HAVING THE GREATEST CONSTITUENT PRESSURES AND LITTLE WILL RESULT.

SECRETARY KREPS AND FRANK WEIL HAVE BEEN WORKING HARD TO ENSURE THAT THE JAPANESE BUYING MISSION WHICH IS ARRIVING THIS WEEK WILL NOT ONLY BE VIEWED PUBLICLY AS A SUCCESS, BUT WILL IN FACT BE ONE. THERE IS EXCELLENT INTERAGENCY COOPERATION IN THIS AND OTHER FOLLOW-UP EFFORTS, INCLUDING PARTICULARLY THE DEPARTMENTS OF LABOR, AGRICULTURE AND TREASURY. DICK HOLBROOKE AND HIS PEOPLE, AND YOUR OWN, ARE CARRYING THE LARGEST PART OF THIS EFFORT, AND I KNOW WILL CONTINUE TO DO SO.

THE FIRST MISSION TRAVELING FROM WASHINGTON TO
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PAGE 03 STATE 055817

TOKYO WILL BE THE FOREST PRODUCTS GROUP WHICH IS SLATED TO MEET WITH THE JAPANESE NEXT WEEK. THE DELEGATION WILL BE HEADED BY ASSISTANT STR STEPHEN LANDE, WHO, AS YOU KNOW FROM OUR JANUARY CONSULTATIONS, IS A SUPERB NEGOTIATOR. I HAVE TOLD STEVE TO BE AVAILABLE DURING THE VISIT NEXT WEEK TO MEET WITH YOU, YOUR STAFF AND APPROPRIATE JAPANESE OFFICIALS TO EXCHANGE THE PLANS AND IDEAS WHICH WILL FACILITATE THE OVERALL SUCCESS OF THIS IMPORTANT ENDEAVOR.

SINCERELY, BOB END TEXT CHRISTOPHER

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